

II. Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A method for aligning a prosthetic device for insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising

providing an alignment instrument having an anchoring device extending therefrom,
engaging the anchoring device with a vertebral body located adjacent to the intervertebral space,

aligning the alignment instrument relative to the intervertebral space,

driving the anchoring device into the vertebral body, and

providing an implantation device adjacent to the alignment instrument via a clamp assembly operatively connected to the alignment instrument, the implantation device holding the prosthetic device at a distal end thereof.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein aligning the alignment instrument comprises aligning a radiographic marker disposed within the alignment instrument via a fluoroscopic machine.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein aligning the alignment instrument comprises viewing a bubble level device operatively connected to the alignment instrument.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the clamp assembly is operatively connected to the alignment instrument via a second clamp assembly.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising slidably adjusting the second clamp assembly along the alignment instrument to position the prosthetic device adjacent to the intervertebral space

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 further comprising locking the second clamp assembly to the alignment instrument.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising slidably adjusting the first clamp assembly along the second clamp assembly to further position the prosthetic device adjacent to the intervertebral space.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising locking the first clamp assembly to the second clamp assembly.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 further comprising slidably adjusting the implantation device along the first clamp assembly to further position the prosthetic device adjacent to the intervertebral space.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 further comprising locking the implantation device to the first clamp assembly.

30. (New) A method for implanting an implant comprising:
providing an alignment instrument having an anchoring device for engaging a vertebra extending from a distal end thereof;
providing an insertion instrument for inserting an implant;
providing a first clamp assembly for engaging with the alignment instrument;
providing a second clamp assembly for engaging with the first clamp assembly and engaging with the insertion instrument;
positioning the insertion instrument adjacent to the alignment instrument; and
connecting the insertion instrument to the alignment instrument via the first and second clamp assemblies.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein connecting the insertion instrument to the alignment instrument comprises securing the first clamp assembly to the alignment instrument, securing the second clamp assembly to the first clamp assembly, and securing the insertion instrument to the second clamp assembly.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the insertion instrument is movably secured to the second clamp assembly.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the alignment instrument is fixedly secured to the first clamp assembly and the second clamp assembly is fixedly secured to the first clamp assembly.

34. (New) The method of claim 32 further comprising adjusting the position of the insertion instrument relative to the second clamp assembly.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising fixedly securing the insertion instrument to the second clamp assembly in the adjusted position.

36. (New) A method comprising:

providing an alignment instrument having a bone anchoring device extending from a distal end thereof;

providing an insertion instrument having an implant engaging portion;

providing a clamp assembly for connecting the insertion instrument to the alignment instrument;

engaging the anchoring device of the alignment instrument with a vertebra adjacent to an intervertebral space;

aligning the alignment instrument relative to the intervertebral space;

securing the alignment instrument in the aligned position;

engaging an implant to the implant engaging portion of the insertion instrument;

connecting the insertion instrument to the alignment instrument via the clamp assembly;
and

inserting the implant into the intervertebral space with the insertion instrument.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein inserting the implant comprises slidably adjusting the position of the insertion instrument relative to the clamp assembly.

38. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein inserting the implant further comprises securing the insertion instrument in the adjusted position.

39. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein inserting the implant further comprises actuating the insertion instrument while secured in the adjusted position to release the implant.